

CLAIMS

1. A process of partially, or substantially completely, encapsulating a multi-part article with one or more sheets of thermoformable plastics, said process including, as an intermediate or preliminary step, the step of at least partially encapsulating at least two of said parts with a sheet of thermoformable plastics so as to maintain said at least two parts in a pre-determined relationship or configuration, and said process further including, as a step subsequent to said intermediate or preliminary step, the step of further at least partially encapsulating said at least two parts together with a further part.
2. The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein during said intermediate or preliminary step said at least two parts are partially encapsulated from one side only by a single said sheet.
3. The process as claimed in claim 2 wherein during said subsequent step said at least two parts are at least partially encapsulated from a side opposite said one side.
4. The process as claimed in claim 3 wherein during said subsequent step said at least two parts are at least partially encapsulated from said opposite side and from said one side.
5. The process as claimed in claim 3 or 4 wherein during said subsequent step said multi-part article is substantially completely encapsulated.
6. The process as claimed in any one of claims 2-5 wherein said at least two parts are at least partially encapsulated in said intermediate or preliminary step in a substantially planar configuration.
7. The process as claimed in claim 6 wherein said at least two parts are at least partially encapsulated in said subsequent step in a substantially planar configuration.
8. The process as claimed in claims 6 or 7 wherein said at least two parts comprise sub-assemblies of a wiring harness.

9. The process as claimed in any one of claims 2-5 wherein said at least two parts at least partially encapsulated in said intermediate or preliminary step each have a planar configuration.

10. The process as claimed in claim 9 wherein after partial encapsulation in said intermediate or preliminary step a substantially annular sub-assembly is formed from said planar parts.

11. The process as claimed in claim 10 wherein during said subsequent step said annular sub-assemblies are at least partially encapsulated to form an annular assembly.

12. The process as claimed in claim 11 wherein said annular assembly comprises a multi-tier pallet cage.

13. A partially, or substantially completely, encapsulated multi-part article fabricated by the process as claimed in any one of claims 1-12.

14. The article as claimed in claim 13 and selected from the group consisting of wiring harnesses, cable trays, pallets and cages for pallets.